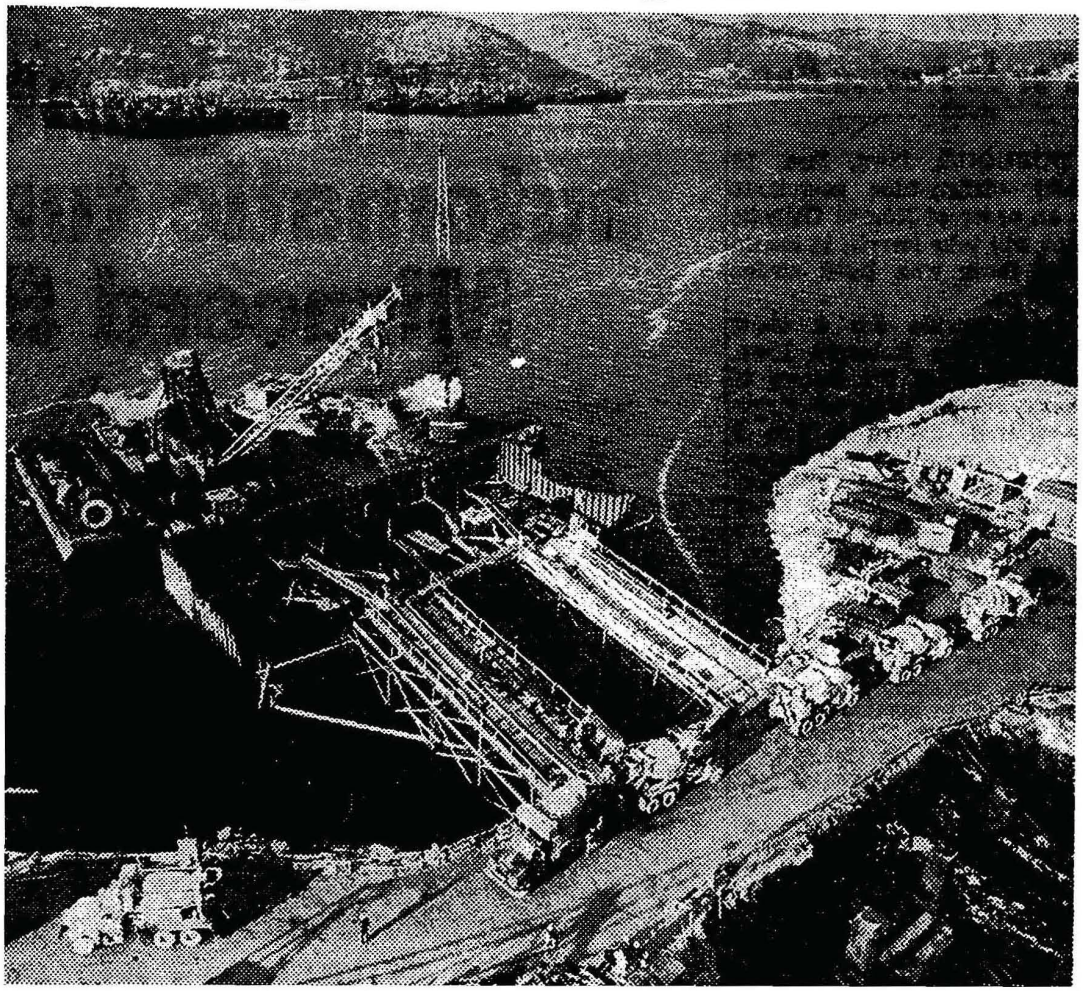
Con Ed Pouring Half-Block-Long Base for Atom Plant



The New York Times

Concrete-mixing trucks line up to deliver loads for pouring into coffer dam that will form base of new building for Consolidated Edison's Indian Point nuclear-power plant.

Special to The New York Times

BUCHANAN, N. Y., Dec. 15—One of the largest solid blocks of concrete in the metropolitan area is being poured deep under the Hudson River here for a new plant to provide electricity for New York City.

Half as long as a city block, it will be the base of a building for the Consolidated Edison Company's $108-million nuclear-fuel generating plant on Indian Point, adjacent to a somewhat similar plant in service since 1962.

Every three minutes today a big truck with a rotating drum filled with concrete from nearby Verplanck arrived at the waterfront to empty its load onto endless belts that feed the concrete into a hopper, which carries it to the river floor of mud and rock 54 feet below water level.

"We began pouring on Tuesday and have to keep at it constantly 24 hours a day to have a good base," said George Reider, vice president of Stearin, Preston & Burrows, concrete contractors. "If we stop even for a few minutes, river slime would spoil the mix. We'll finish on Saturday."

Mr. Reider, who worked on the construction of the Throgs Neck and Verrazano Bridges, said the bridge bases had more concrete than the 16,000 tons here but they were compartmented while the one here is to be a solid mass 132 feet long, 66 feet wide and 24 feet thick.

A steel coffer dam rims the base and when the concrete is fully set in 10 days, river water will be pumped from the coffer dam. Then, on the base, 30 feet below the river surface, construction will start on the screening chambers, tunnels and pumping apparatus to provide water to cool condensers of the turbines and generators in a nearby rectangular building.

Concrete walls of the rectangular building were being poured today and so were those of an adjacent circular building for a reactor.

Consolidated Edison officials said the new plant would be completed in 1969 to provide enough electricity for three million people.

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